Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, As a result of a few dedicated individuals on faculty at the University of South Dakota and funding from the Advisory Council for the Commission on Mental Health and Mental Retardation, now known as the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Center for Disabilities was created in 1971 on the University campus as a diagnostic center and called "Developmental Disabilities Evaluation Center"; and,

Whereas, The mission of this program was to provide diagnostic services for children with developmental disabilities, and was governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives from several agencies; and,

Whereas, In 1973, a grant was funded by the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare, now known as the Department of Health and Human Services, that established the diagnostic center as a University Affiliated Program, currently referred to as the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disability Education, Research and Service (UCEDD), and expanded the focus from diagnostic services to include interdisciplinary training, technical assistance, outreach training, and information dissemination; and,

Whereas, The Center for Disabilities, located at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, works with others creating opportunities that improve the lives of persons with disabilities and those they consider their families; and,

Whereas, The Center's staff strives to achieve this mission through community education, research and evaluation, academic training, information dissemination and direct services for individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals; and,

Whereas, The Center's four major programs include the Autism and Related Disorders Program, Birth to 3 Connections Program, Deaf-Blind Program, and the Four-State Consortium on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome; and,

Whereas, The Center will celebrate its 30th anniversary on the date it became part of the national network, which is July 30, 2003:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2003, as

CENTER FOR DISABILITIES DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State